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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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For Immediate Release:
06 September 2017
Release No.: 17-37

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Lake Shelbyville Receives STEM Team Award

Lake Shelbyville – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced Lake Shelbyville as this year's recipient of the 2016 Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Outstanding Team Achievement Award. The Lake Shelbyville team was commended for their dedication and support to STEM and the local community.

"It is truly an honor to be the recipient of the 2016 STEM Award. This could not have been possible without the partnership of the Okaw Valley Community Unit School District and all the other community wide partners. Okaw Valley should be recognized for their efforts investing in each student and the community by providing the best opportunities for each student to become successful members of society," said Operations Manager Jon Summers.

Through the development of an award-winning partnership with Okaw Valley Community Unit School District 302, staff found creative ways to engage, educate, and encourage students to pursue classes and careers in STEM fields. The program was designed for middle and high school students to gain hands-on work experience in STEM related fields. Increasing their interest and participation in STEM-related curriculum and careers while highlighting the importance of volunteerism and community support.

"This is an unbelievable partnership for our students and we are looking forward to seeing it continue to grow. It is amazing to see what one can accomplish when no one worries about taking the credit. Lake Shelbyville is outstanding to work with and we would like to congratulate them on this achievement," said Okaw Valley Superintendent Kent Stuaeder.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – ST LOUIS DISTRICT – LAKE SHELBYVILLE

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<http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Lake-Shelbyville/>

In its first year, the program had tremendous success. One hundred-eighty students generated a total of 1,919 volunteer work hours at an estimated value of over \$46,000.00. In addition, 15 community partners have contributed more than \$43,000.00 to the partnership.

“This partnership is opening doors for me. I am getting the opportunity to learn things that I would not have gotten to learn elsewhere. My future plans are still undecided, but this experience to work and learn from the Corps has given me a better understanding of all the possibilities that are available to me”, said Okaw Valley High School Senior Tanner Coleman.

“This program is different from others because it is embedded in the classroom and tied to the curriculum, conceptual understanding is built in and the program provides the face-to-face, hands-on, long-term interaction with the teachers, students and the Corps” said Jon Summers.







